Greenfield Garden Club Newsletter

August 2026 Vol. 34, No. 8

Late Summer Garden Party Fun

SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

Saturday, August 15

Appetizers & Drinks

4:00-7:00pm

At the home of Lisa and Marek Machalski, 123 Green River Road.

There is plenty of street parking (not in the driveway please)

Rain or Shine

RSVP By August 8th to: greenfieldgardenclub.org
(Our hosts would love to know how many of our 140 members to expect!)

The club has not had a late summer party for many years, so it's wonderful to bring it back. Enjoy strolling the peaceful gardens (sun as well as shade) of Lisa and Marek Machalski. Join in a game of badminton. Bring a frisbee or a favorite lawn game. Bring friends and spouses. Paper goods, cups, glasses, silver-ware, etc. will be provided. The club will provide drinks (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), as well as some appetizers, but bring your favorite appetizer/drink if you are able.

August President's Musings ~ *Laura Schlaikjer*

Well, that was a lot of much-needed rain! Hopefully it had a chance to fully sink into the ground. That's 4.5 inches in Leyden before even more rain came. As The Farmer's Market states, we are halfway through the summer gardening season. I hope your gardens are bursting with bright flowers and glistening veggies. Plant sales have started at various sellers in the region. Garden tours are still ongoing. Lots to do! We have lost one of our long-time members. Please see page 6 for Linda's remembrance of Jan's dad Roger. Please email the club if you'd like to help with or have any questions about the fair booth (page 2). Did you notice that we have about 140 members now? Hopefully everyone is finding pleasure in the club, even if it's just for the discounts!! See you at the Summer Party! ~ Laura

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 11, 5:00pm – Steering Committee Meeting
August 15, 4-7pm – Summer Party at the Machalski's
August 21, 5:30pm – Fair Booth Meeting
August 28 - Full Sturgeon Moon peaks at 12:18am
September 8 & 9 – Fair Booth set-up

August brings the sheaves of corn, then the harvest home is borne. ~ Sara Coleridge

Fair Booth Committee update. A small group has identified a plan for this year's booth. We need loans of live, historical herb plants – parsley, oregano, sage, mint, thyme, borage, chamomile, lemon balm, lamb's ears, lavender, comfrey, bee balm, & catnip. We could use other plants from the 1700's and 1800's – like geraniums, hollyhocks, Sweet William, and marigolds. Remember, plants are judged on quality, so please aim for nice specimens.

We could also use harvested veggies to put into baskets: cabbage, corn, carrots (with tops), beans, squash, radishes (with tops), parsnips, turnips, onions, garlic (with tops), beets and pumpkins.

Set-up days are Tuesday 9/8 from 6-9pm and Wednesday 9/9 from 3-9pm.

Other accessories would be a high-backed, narrow seat chair, flat stones, lots of used potting soil where we will "plant" our herbs (flowers can be in simple pots – think 1700's). We have a hay fork, straw, and a wagon wheel – we would love it if anyone has a hand-held plow. We have an old-fashioned tin lunch pail. We could use a checked dish towel, and a variety of baskets.

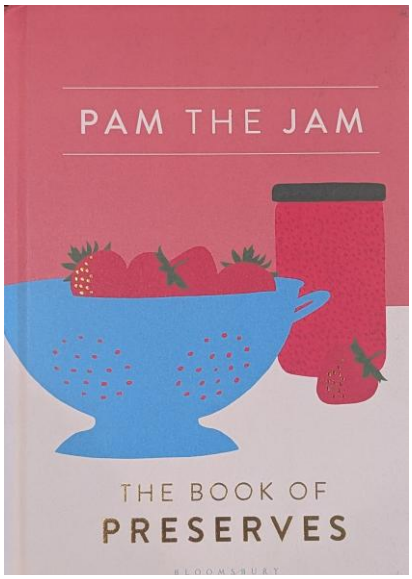
NEXT MEETING: 8/21 @ 5:30pm. RSVP for the location. We will fine-tune the display and action plan.

*Don't forget to check out Margaret Roach's excellent **Monthly Garden Chores** on her website:* https://awaytogarden.com/category/chores-by-month/

There are open gardens in CT, MA and NH in the month of August thru **The Garden Conservancy.** See if any fit into your schedule **here.**

Officers 2026:

President/Newsletter/FB/Website: Laura Schlaikjer
Vice President: Marsha Stone
Treasurer: Becky George
Recording Secretary: Jane Alexander
Corresponding Secretary: Nicki Shipman
At Large Member/s: Eva Carrier; Celt Grant; Leslie Schaler



Pam the Jam, The Book of Preserves

Bloomsbury Publishing in 2019

'Pam the Jam' Corbin is the UK's leading expert on Jams, jellies, marmalades, chutneys, pickles, and other preserves, and she has been in the business for more than 30 years. Pam lives in Devon in the UK.

You can follow Pam on *Instagram*.
Listen to her on Sarah Raven's podcast -
which is also on YouTube.
Find more interesting books *@bloomsburycooks*
(I bought my copy on eBay)

Nicki Shipman brought this dessert to the July Steering Cttee mtg. It comes from her neighbors Bob and Nancy Sawyer and originated in Cutler, Maine. Bob and Nancy's daughter, Amy Clarke, won a blue ribbon at the Franklin County Fair when she entered it.

MAINE BLUE RIBBON BLUEBERRY PIE

Make & bake your favorite or store-bought pie crust. In a saucepan, mix 1 cup blueberries (crushed), 1 cup sugar, & 2 TBS cornstarch. (I added 1tsp lemon juice.) Cook over medium-low heat until it thickens. (This will also temper the cornstarch taste.) Stir frequently. Remove from heat and mix in 3-4 cups fresh blueberries. Spread into cooked pie crust and refrigerate. Serve cold with ice cream/whipped cream.

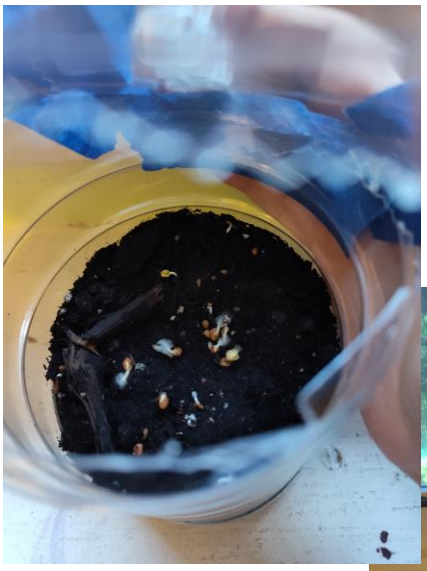
Thank you from the Sunderland Library for their Gardening Grant

Dear Nicola and the Greenfield Garden Club,

Thank you so much for providing the grant allowing us to host a Plastic Bottle Terrarium workshop this summer. We hosted this event on Tuesday, July 7th and had 34 attendees who all had a fabulous time. Attached is our flyer for the event and a few pictures. Please let us know if you need anything else regarding a report from the grant. We sincerely appreciate your generous support of this program and our library.

Sincerely,
Katherine & Kelly

Katherine Umstot
Director
Sunderland Public Library
20 School Street, Sunderland, MA 01375
(413) 665-2642



August's Full Sturgeon Moon and Partial Lunar Eclipse

August's full moon be bright and big, but it will also give us a partial lunar eclipse visible throughout North America (NASA). During the eclipse, 96% of the moon will be covered. Because it is so close to being a total eclipse, it's called an "almost blood moon." The only light that reaches the Moon's surface is from the edges of the Earth's atmosphere, and because air molecules in our planet's atmosphere scatter the blue light, and the remaining light reflects off the moon, making it appear red. (NASA)

The eclipse will begin on Thursday, Aug. 27, at 9:23 p.m. ET (Time and Date). It will reach maximum eclipse, when the moon will be 96% covered, on Friday, Aug. 28, at 12:12 a.m. ET.

August's full Sturgeon Moon will be the last full moon of the summer season. The next full moon after this one won't occur until Saturday, Sept. 26, which is after the autumnal equinox on Sept. 22, the first day of fall according to the Old Farmer's Almanac.

Other names for this full moon are: The Corn Moon (Algonquin and Ojibwe people); The Harvest Moon (Dakota people); The Mountain Shadows Moon (Tlingit people of the Pacific Northwest).

Remembering Roger

~ Linda Tyler

Roger S. Matthews was born on March 12, 1933, and passed on July 23, 2026, at the age of 93.

Roger moved to Greenfield in 2012 and joined the Greenfield Garden Club mostly on support of his daughter Jan and her passion for flowers. He would often brag about the club to anyone who would listen.

There are early pictures in the archives of him helping at Trap Plain, the club's display garden. Roger was always at the Extravaganza to lend a hand and his trailer to cart around plants. He was known to donate his extra cannas which is only fair since he originally got them from the club! Once he started making his famous tin men, they could be found at any event the club set up a sale table. His men can still be found in member's gardens to this day.

Roger also loved going to the annual meeting and potlucks. Not only was there an opportunity for good food, but there was also socialization, something Roger truly excelled at. I recalled on trip to the New York Botanical Gardens where Roger knew everyone's name before we reached NY! He was especially charming to all the ladies. I think Roger's daughter, Donna, said it best, "He never met a stranger, only new friends, and his sense of humor charmed many."

When he moved to Florida with Jan and Steve Adam, he missed all those he left behind. He was funny, gregarious, charming, and had a wonderful sense of humor. Every time we me he would say. "Hey, I know you!" That was always just before we gave each other a big hug. Roger will be sorely missed.

Sympathy cards may be addressed to Jan and Steve Adam at the following address: 291 N. Crestwood Ave, Inverness, FL 34453. The link to the full obituary is at the beginning of this page.

Roger's memorial service on August 1 in Inverness, FL will be recorded and a link will be posted, no doubt on Facebook. Jan and Steve have also posted many wonderful photos of Roger on their respective Facebook pages. Rest in peace, Roger!

O'BRIEN NURSERYMEN – OPEN DAYS 2026

40 Wells Rd, Granby, CT

sales@obrienhosta.com

Use your 10% discount on your purchases!

August 14, 15 & 16 – Hosta Dividing Demo, Each Day at Noon

August 21, 22 & 23 – Our Franklinia starts blooming now, for 2 Months!

Hours: Friday 10-5; Saturdays 10-5; Sundays 10-5 (On Above Dates Only)

Also by Appointment – Please Call Ahead

They accept cash and checks – but not credit cards!

Check out this YouTube video featuring O'Brien Nursery released August 2025.

2ND ANNUAL AWESOME BLOSSOM FLOWER SHOW

Friday Night

August 14th

5:00 – 8:00 pm

A.P.E. Gallery

126 Main St - Northampton, MA

Use street parking or behind Thornes Marketplace

You are invited to a relaxed reception to experience the unmatched elegance of floral design, and the Delightful, Tender, Humorous, and softly spoken artworks of k.PAUL.m

This year's theme is a wonderful one. Floral Designers from Pioneer Valley Flower Farms and Floral Shops are offered an opportunity to present their arrangements in a vibrant downtown artistic environment. Each designer is encouraged to use locally sourced flowers and to explore design innovations in a gallery environment.

This is part of Arts Night Out Northampton

CALL FOR ENTRIES - THREE COUNTY FAIR

It's time to start thinking about all the agricultural fairs happening around the region, especially if you are interested in entering any items, as well as attending.

The Three County Fair in Northampton has written to invite club members to enter their fair. (We also received an invitation to enter the Hillsboro [NH] County Fair, but I think they thought we were located in Greenfield, NH!)

We are reaching out to ask you to let your organization know about the Three County Fair. The Three County Fair in Northampton, Massachusetts is the oldest continuously operating fair in the country.

We are in the charge of the **Agricultural Exhibit Hall** which includes everything from flower arrangements, produce, and canning to honey, maple products, scarecrows, and educational agricultural displays.

Each year the Fair takes place over Labor Day Weekend which this year falls on **September 4-7.** We would like to invite members of your organizations to submit entries in any and all categories that are relevant to their interests. Those who place will be awarded prize money.

To learn more about how to enter and see all of the categories, please visit: https://www.3countyfair.com/p/the-fair/premium-book--competitions--exhibits.

Anyone is welcome to enter. Residence is not limited to the three counties of Hampshire, Franklin, and Hampden.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Many thanks,

Diana West & Lisa West

Superintendents, Agricultural Exhibit Hall
Three County Fair, Northampton, MA
September 4-7, 2026

If you want to exhibit at the FRANKLIN COUNTY FAIR, the DEADLINE is AUGUST 15TH.

HARVESTING HISTORY'S
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION STORY

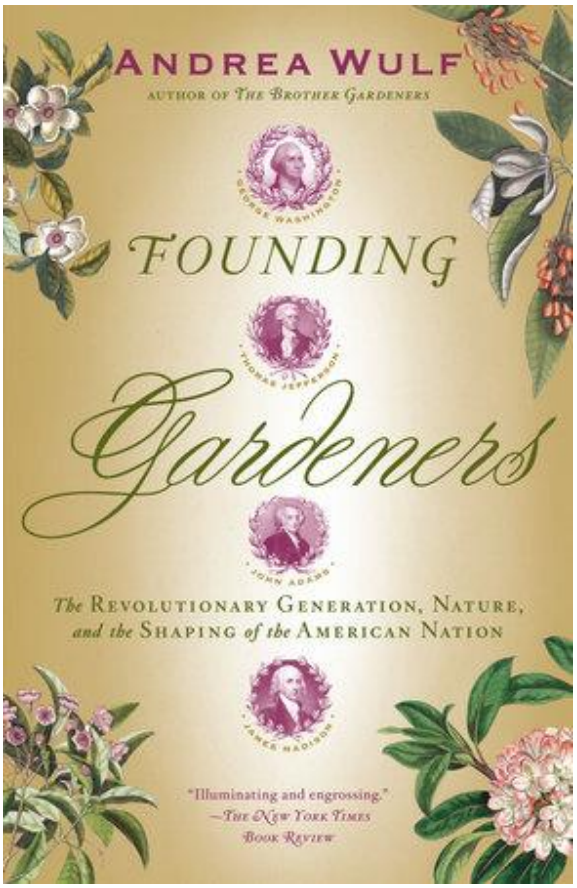
Harvesting History has published all four segments of their Constitutional Convention Story on YouTube. (Make sure your volume is turned up.)

The Founding of America: The Story of the Great Compromise & the Role a GARDEN May Have Played; Part 1

The Founding of America: The Story of the Great Compromise & the Role a GARDEN May Have Played; Part 2

The Founding of America: The Story of the Great Compromise & the Role a GARDEN May Have Played; Part 3

The Founding of America: The Story of the Great Compromise & the Role a GARDEN May Have Played; Part 4



A groundbreaking look at the Founding Fathers and their obsession with gardening, agriculture, and botany by the author of Magnificent Rebels and New York Times bestseller The Invention of Nature. • "Illuminating and engrossing." —The New York Times Book Review

For the Founding Fathers, gardening, agriculture, and botany were elemental passions: a conjoined interest as deeply ingrained in their characters as the battle for liberty and a belief in the greatness of their new nation.

Founding Gardeners is an exploration of that obsession, telling the story of the revolutionary generation from the unique perspective of their lives as gardeners, plant hobbyists, and farmers. Acclaimed historian Andrea Wulf describes how George Washington wrote letters to his estate manager even as British warships gathered off Staten Island; how a tour of English gardens renewed Thomas Jefferson's and John Adams's faith in their fledgling nation; and why James Madison is the forgotten father of environ-mentalism.

Through these and other stories, Wulf reveals a fresh, nuanced portrait of the men who created our nation.

Want your community planting native and restoring habitat, but not sure how to get people involved? Or maybe you've already started something and keep hitting the same walls?

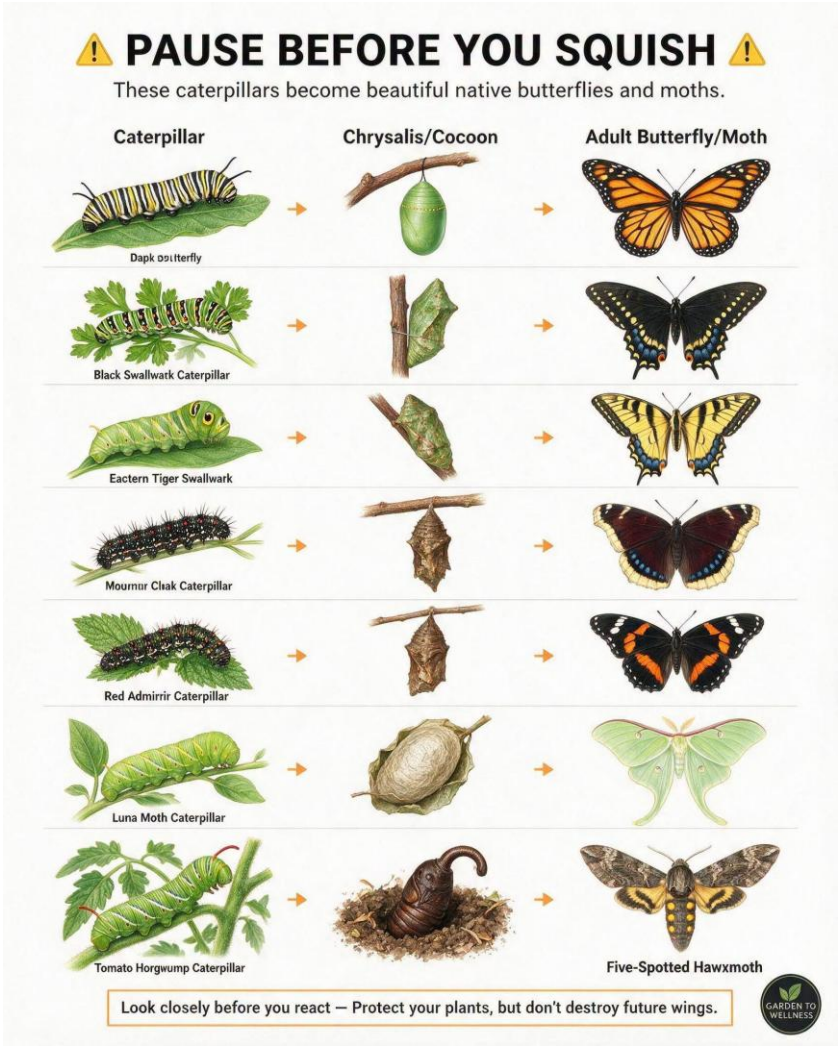
This webinar is for both. Join Andrew Conboy, ISA-certified arborist and founder of the Community Canopy Project, for a look at how he's built hands-on restoration partnerships with local governments, residents, corporate volunteers, and students. Andrew will share what's worked, what hasn't, and how a small, community-centered approach can grow into something bigger, in cities and rural areas alike.

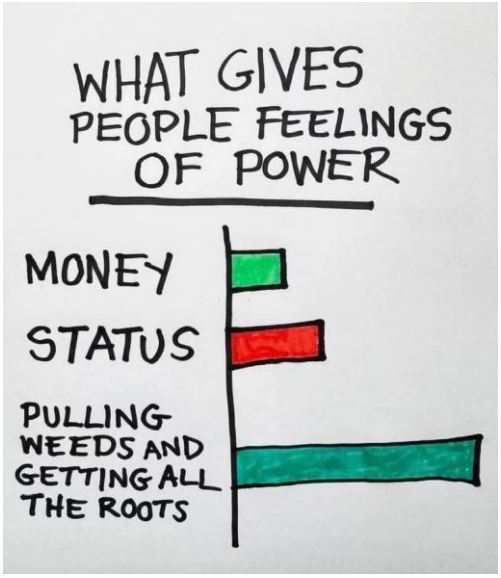
Bring your thoughts and questions – your engagement is welcome.

Already thinking about starting something in your own neighborhood? Bring a friend who'd want to co-lead it with you!

Open Door tickets (free) join via YouTube livestream; Supporter ($25) and General Admission ($10) tickets join live on Zoom.

Thursday, August 20 at 12pm ET. 45-minute talk, followed by live Q&A.





Club Visit to Dayna and Aaron's in July

Our visit to N Orange to see the daylilies and natives grown by Aaron Kendall and Dayna Veach was a success. Dayna and Aaron were the consummate hosts, offering libations and snacks as well as lots of plant info and loaded sales tables. Both are available for interested parties to visit/shop on **Mondays and Tuesdays**, and then evenings by appointment. Dayna Veach advertises her plants on Facebook Marketplace. Search using "pollinator" and "perennial" and look for Orange as the location. She has an extensive list if you are looking for something in particular. EM the club for their address, or you can respond to her directly thru Facebook. Happy plant shopping!

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of June 16, 2026.....$5,310.01

Income $1,190.15
Interest $0.15; Garden Tour: $1040; Magic Wings co-Sponsor: $150

Expenses $366.17
Garden Tour: $366.17

Balance as of July 15, 2026.....$6,142.99

All financial matters and membership dues should be directed to Greenfield Garden Club:
c/o Becky George, 91 Smith St #212, Greenfield MA 01301 **Questions?**
greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Friday, August 28th
greenfieldgardenclub@yahoo.com

Greenfield Garden Club
PO Box 309
Greenfield, MA 01301-0309

MEMBER DISCOUNTS

These vendors have agreed to provide the listed discounts for members who show their membership card when making a purchase. We appreciate their support! Please respect their offers by remembering these generous discounts are for club members only and only when your card is presented. Please thank them for their generosity when you make a purchase.

Baystate Perennial Farm
36 State Road (Route 5/10), Whately
10% off regular priced plants with membership

Chapley Gardens
397 Greenfield Road (Route 5/10), Deerfield
10% off regular priced plants and pond supplies

Conway Natives
351 South Shirkshire Rd, Conway
10% off plants and consultations

Floral Affairs
324 Deerfield St, Greenfield
10% off anything in the store

Greenfield Farmers' Cooperative (Agway)
269 High Street, Greenfield
10% anything garden-related

Here We Grow
123 Russell St (Rte 9), Hadley
15% off everything in the store

LaSalle Florists
23 LaSalle Drive (Route 5/10), Whately
10% off regular priced plants

Any vendors interested in offering our club member - gardeners a discount, please contact one of the club's officers – thank you!!

Mill River Farm Market – Conway
Road/corner 116 & Rtes 5/10. S. Deerfield
10% off plants in Spring and Fall

Nettlepoint Farm
138 Highland Ave, Greenfield
10% off online orders with the code GFGARDEN

O'Brien Nurserymen
40 Wells Road, Granby, CT
10% off plants

Patten Hill Flower Farm
135 Reynolds Rd, Shelburne Falls
10% off workshops taught by owner Barb Parry

Shelburne Farm & Garden
355 Mohawk Trail, Shelburne
10% off anything garden-related

Silver Garden Daylilies
23 Pickett Lane, Greenfield
10% off daylilies

Warm Colors Apiary
2 South Mill River Road, South Deerfield
10% off